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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-second session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Item 4 (b)

Programme 17
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 17)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the revisions.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme and the proposed revisions. The inclusion of the relevant provisions of the Millennium Declaration was noted with appreciation.

4. The view was expressed that the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was of great importance to the development of the Latin American and Caribbean region. Delegations expressed praise for the work carried out by the programme in assisting Member States in assessing the economic

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and social effects of natural disasters and related recovery tasks as well as the efforts of ECLAC to assist the countries of the region in following up and implementing the outcomes of the recent major international conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

5. It was observed that gender mainstreaming had been emphasized in all aspects of the work programme of ECLAC, due to the cross-cutting nature of the issue. The view was expressed that emphasis should also be placed on issues of major concern for the region, such as poverty reduction, development and the social consequences of structural adjustment policies.

6. Delegations felt that the sentence proposed for deletion in paragraph 17.3 — "Gender mainstreaming, consideration of environmental sustainability, institution-building and improvement of public regulation are priority aspects of such interrelations" — should be retained since it encompassed a concept of importance for the whole programme.

7. Delegations mostly welcomed the proposed inclusion of the new sentence in paragraph 17.21 — "In the context of social development and equity, special emphasis will be given to consolidating the approach to development based on human rights and the promotion of peace and democracy". However, a question was raised in that regard concerning the mandate for the last part of this sentence — "approach to development based on human rights and the promotion of peace and democracy" — on the grounds that it was not based properly on any specific mandate. Concern was expressed that the insertion proposed for paragraph 17.21 did not come from any mandate of ECLAC, as had been indicated by the Secretariat. The insertion was beyond the objective of the revisions to the medium-term plan, which was aimed at updating the medium-term plan with the relevant mandates after its adoption. In this context, the Committee was unable to reach agreement regarding the retention or the deletion of the proposed new text.

8. Concern was expressed that some of the proposed revisions diluted the emphasis of the work of ECLAC in the field of the eradication of poverty and social inequity.

9. Some delegations felt that, in item (a) in paragraph 17.22, emphasis should be placed on social justice and equity, in addition to the emphasis placed on gender inequality.

10. Support was expressed for the proposed inclusion of the phrase "and for using a core set of gender indicators for public policy formulation and implementation" in paragraph 17.25 under subprogramme 5. In that regard, it was pointed out that the creation of databases, as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in its report,[1] could serve to avoid unnecessary duplication and spread best practices. The view was also expressed that, in paragraph 17.28, the indicator of achievement (c) should be reformulated to shift emphasis from "consolidation of national and regional institutions dealing with gender issues" to "mainstreaming gender issues in public policy formulation and implementation in the relevant economic and social sectors".

11. It was also observed that the revisions should include a reference to the Monterrey Consensus resulting from the recent International Conference on Financing for Development.

12. Finally, questions were raised as to whether the Assembly of ECLAC at its 2002 session had given sufficient consideration to the proposed revisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 17.3

- **Retain the original wording of the text proposed for deletion — "Gender mainstreaming, consideration of environmental sustainability, institution-building and improvement of public regulation are priority aspects of such interrelations" — in paragraph 17.3 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1);**
- **Add at the end of the second sentence the following: "The Monterrey Consensus, as adopted by the General Assembly, will also be regarded as a guideline to implement activities related to the programme of work of ECLAC."**

Paragraph 17.22 (a)

Replace the text in bold type reading "and reduce poverty with a focus on gender inequality" with the words "and reduce poverty particularly with a focus on reducing gender inequality, in this regard".

Paragraph 17.22 (c) and (e)

- **Retain the original wordings contained in paragraph 17.22 (c) and (e) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1);**
- **Retain the new text contained in paragraph 17.22 (c) and (e).**

Paragraph 17.23 (b)

- **Retain the original wording in paragraph 17.23 (b) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1) and renumber accordingly, as a new indicator;**
- **Retain the new text contained in paragraph 17.23 (b);**
- **Insert after "lessons learned" the phrase "with the assistance of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean".**

Paragraph 17.28 (c)

Replace the text of paragraph 17.28 (c) with the words "mainstreaming gender issues in public policy formulation and implementation in the relevant economic and social sectors".

Paragraph 17.50 (c)

– Retain the original wording in paragraph 17.50 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1) and renumber accordingly, as a new indicator;

– Retain the new text contained in paragraph 17.50 (c).

Legislative mandates

Under General Assembly resolutions add: "56/178 International trade and development".

Subprogramme 4

Add General Assembly resolution: "52/194 Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty".

Add General Assembly resolution: "56/202 Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".

14. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, further consider paragraph 17.21 of the programme.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third special session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), para. 84 (e).